

Winter Wonderland

Voyageurs National Park may be best known for summer boating, but to truly experience all that the park has to offer consider a winter visit to experience a dramatic landscape cloaked in glittering white snow.

The Rainy Lake Visitor Center

The Rainy Lake Visitor Center is open year-round to help you make the most of your time in the park.

October 1 – December 31, 2007

Wed. – Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

January 1 – Late May, 2007

Wed. – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Stop by this winter for:

- A complimentary cup of hot cocoa in the warmth of the lobby with panoramic views of Black Bay in winter.
- Snowshoes, available for use free of charge in adult and child sizes to explore park trails.
- Cross-country skis – adult skis are rented at \$5 per day, kid's skis are free to borrow.
- Special programs and activities are offered on weekends from January through March. Visit the park web-site or call ahead for a schedule, available in December.
- View the award-winning park film or other videos about the north-woods. Ask at the front desk for details.

Snowshoeing

If you can walk, you can snowshoe too. Several trails are tracked for snowshoeing once sufficient snow has fallen in the forest. A few popular destinations are:

The Oberholtzer Trail (2 miles, round trip)

Located just outside the Rainy Lake Visitor Center, this trail is fun for all skill levels.

Black Bay Beaver Pond Trail (1.2 miles, round trip)

Located across the bay on the Kabetogama Peninsula, you'll need to drive on the Rainy Lake ice road to access this snowshoe trail. Look for wolf tracks and otter slides in the snow as you trek through the forest to a frozen beaver pond.

Blind Ash Bay Trail (2.5 mile loop)

This popular summer hiking trail is transformed in winter. If you're looking for a little winter adventure, this path through the boreal forest near the Ash River

Visitor Center (closed in winter) may be just what you're looking for.

Sullivan Bay Snowshoe Trail (1.5 miles, round trip)

This short but scenic trail is also located near Ash River. A short hike leads to a beautiful view of frozen Sullivan Bay from a large rocky point that reaches out from the surrounding forest.

Cross-Country Skiing

Enjoy the tranquility of cross-country

skiing at Voyageurs National Park. Bring your own or rent skis at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Trails for a variety of skill levels are available. Some to consider:

Black Bay Ski Trail

This popular trail is located one mile north of the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Travel on the Rainy Lake ice road to the trailhead. Six miles of trail include routes for beginners, intermediate and advanced skiers. Ask for a map at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center and keep your eyes open for animal tracks on the snowy forest floor.

Voyageurs/Tilson Creek Trail

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Voyageurs National Park manage this sixteen mile network of interconnected ski trails. Several routes are possible, ranging from short loops to longer excursions. You can access this system from the Rainy Lake Visitor Center area on the park's Tilson Connector Trail.

Echo Bay Trail

This 3.5 mile loop trail is located a few miles from the Kabetogama Lake Visitor Center (closed winter). Follow County Road 122 north toward the Woodenfrog Campground to access the trailhead.



Kab-Ash Trail

This challenging backcountry trail system contains 22 miles of trail for the experienced skier. Bring a map and be prepared for winter travel in a remote area if exploring the Kab-Ash trail in winter.

Ice Fishing

Ghostly winter quiet, rugged piney shorelines, and outstanding angling make Voyageurs National Park an ice angler's dream. Place ice houses at least 50 feet from the center of snowmobile trails and the ice road. Check ice conditions before going out. Fishing license and icehouse registration are required.



Ice Road

Voyageurs National Park maintains a seven mile ice road on Rainy Lake that extends from the boat launch ramp near the Rainy Lake Visitor Center to the mouth of Cranberry Bay.

- The ice road is open to cars and trucks of less than 7,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.
- The speed limit on the ice road is 30 mph
- Snowmobiles are not permitted on the ice road.
- When heavy snow, slush, or thin ice exists the ice road may be closed or shortened for safety.
- Travel beyond the plowed section is unsafe.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling is allowed on frozen lake surfaces and designated safety portages in Voyageurs National Park. The park provides 110 miles of staked and groomed trail for snowmobiling.

All land areas, including rock faces, are closed to snowmobiles with the exception of designated safety portages. Hill climbing is prohibited.

Obey all closure signs. Areas are closed to protect your safety and to protect sensitive resources.

Be Safe

- Carry a trail map with you
- Keep to the right
- Leave a route plan with someone
- Watch out for pressure ridges – they change the surface of the lake. Always stop and inspect ridge areas before crossing.
- Pressure ridges are marked with two crossed orange caution stakes on each side.
- Slush and open water – avoid them by staying on staked and groomed trails.
- Remember – drinking and sledding don't mix! It is illegal to operate a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Voyageurs National Park

National Park Service
Department of the Interior



ATTENTION SNOWMOBILERS

45
mph

Lake Surfaces
On Trails

25
mph

Land Portages
On Safety
Portages



DRINKING AND
SNOWMOBILING
DON'T MIX!

It is illegal to operate a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Trail Conditions:

Voyageurs National Park trail conditions are posted weekly on the park website at www.nps.gov/voya. Click on "news" or "winter trail report" for detailed information.

Lodging, food, gas, and other services are available in resort communities adjacent to the park. For local snow conditions call the numbers provided below.

International Falls, 1-800-FALLS MN

Kabetogama Lake, 1-800-524-9085

Ash River, 1-800-950-2061

Crane Lake, 1-877-466-7669 (466-SNOW)

